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(German)

THE  
C A S E  
OF THE  
HIGH GERMAN

Reformed Protestant Congregation

In LONDON.

R.B.23 G.1056





THE  
**C A S E**  
 OF THE  
**H I G H G E R M A N**  
**Reformed Protestant Congregation**  
 In L O N D O N.

THE flourishing State of these Realms, and the Liberty of professing the pure Religion, has, for some Centuries past, occasioned many Thousands of industrious Protestants to resort from the Continent to this Island, and particularly to the Metropolis, either for Shelter from Persecution, which they suffered abroad for Religion's sake, or to seek Employment in their several Callings.

And the Government was graciously pleased, for their Encouragement, to allow them, from time to time, such Funds or yearly Supports as were sufficient for the Establishment of decent and proper Places for religious Worship in their own Language, providing for their Sick, and making every other Regulation necessary for charitable and salutary Purposes.

The *High Germans*, who, at various times, on the aforesaid Account, came over from *Prussia*, *Brandenburg*, *Hesse*, the *Palatinate*, *Alsatia*, and other Provinces of the Empire, as also from the several Parts of *Switzerland*, not enjoying any of the Benefits above-mentioned, being for the most part young People, and having no Opportunity of resorting to a public Congregation for Divine Worship in their own Language, according to the Confession of the established Reformed Protestant Church wherein they had been brought up in their native Country, were exposed to all the fatal Consequences of Irreligion and Vice; and being at the same time unacquainted with the *English* Language, and destitute of all Resources for Employment in Life, must inevitably have become a Burthen to the Nation, and a Scandal to human Society.

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Wherefore, in the Year of our Lord 1697, it was concluded, by the most considerate Part of those that were settled here, that a Place for such a religious Purpose was become absolutely necessary ; consequently forming themselves into a Society, they instituted a Chapel in the *Savoy*, for which Purpose they rented a House from the Crown, paying Sixteen Pounds *per Annum* for the same. The Members of the Congregation not being able long, alone, to support it, his *Prussian* Majesty *Frederic I.* at the Representation of Count *Spanheim*, then his Envoy Extraordinary to this Court, was pleased to allow a yearly Stipend of One hundred Pounds, for the Furtherance of so useful and necessary an Institution, under the Name of *The Prussian Church*.

Some time afterwards, her Majesty Queen *Ann*, reflecting that such a religious Settlement was as highly necessary, and of as great Importance as any other of the foreign Chapels that had been established by her Royal Munificence, was graciously pleased to promise the Sum of One thousand Pounds towards purchasing a more decent and proper Place for the same ; but the Death of that Princess intervening, prevented the Payment of the said Sum ; and the yearly

yearly Stipend of his *Prussian* Majesty ceased also soon after his Demise.

The Churchwardens and Overseers, finding themselves thus destitute of the necessary Means for its Continuation, made Applications for the Assistance of the Charitable both here and abroad ; and collecting the Sum of One thousand Pounds, or thereabouts, they deposited, after deducting necessary Expences, the Residue of the Money in the public Funds, for the future Exigencies of the Congregation.

His late Majesty King *George I.* in tender Consideration of the pressing Necessities of this Protestant Church, and for the better establishing and maintaining thereof, was graciously pleased to grant them, by Warrant, dated on or about the 28th Day of *November* 1723, not only the Chapel in the *Savoy*, but also half of the Master's House, a Piece of Ground, and other Tenements therein, exempt of Rent, which they had duly paid for the Chapel, till the time above-mentioned : This Grant his present most Excellent Majesty was pleased to renew and confirm, by Warrant under his Sign Manual, bearing Date 13th of

*April*

April 1733, both countersigned by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

The Congregation, with Hearts full of Gratitude, looked upon this signal Relief as the Foundation of a constant Establishment; and relying on their Title to the Premises, have at different times laid out, in repairing the old Buildings, and to render them more beneficial, all their Cash, consisting of Eight hundred Pounds and upwards.

This Royal Bounty would have afforded a Fund sufficient for the Continuation of this Church, had not the Congregation met with such constant Disturbances in the quiet Possession and Enjoyment of the Benefits accruing therefrom.

The Tenant that was at the time of the Grant in Possession of the lower Part of the Master's House, consisting of Four Rooms and a Kitchen, and which the Congregation designed for an *English* and *German* School, leaving it, the same was, clandestinely and without any Title, sold to another Party, who violently kept Possession thereof; and since that time it has been sold to several others, without the Consent of the Congregation; who, knowing their Title to the Premises

mises to be indisputable, being a Royal Grant, could not suspect that any Attempt would be made to dispossess them, much less that it could be executed, as it was a manifest Infringement of his Majesty's Prerogative, and contrary to all Law.

The Members of the Church, being obliged to attend their honest Callings at their several Places of Abode, which are in general at a great Distance from the *Savoy*, could seldom or never see the above-granted Premises, except at the Hours of public Worship; and consequently had it not in their Power to watch the cunning Devices, or resist the violent Insults, of the Disturbers; on which account their Vestry have never been able to obtain the Possession of the said Lower Part of the Master's House.

The late Minister continued to keep Possession of the other Part of the said House, consisting of Fifteen Rooms, and One-half of the Garden annexed to it, until the Year 1748; when his Health requiring him to remove from thence for some time, the Churchwardens and Overseers, with his Consent, lett the same (except Two Rooms) for One Year and One Quarter; but, before the Tenant could enter upon the Premises, several evil-minded Persons, watching every Oppor-

**Opportunity to violate the Royal Warrant, under Pretence that the King has no Right to take or grant One Inch of Ground in the Savoy, had concerted their unjust Measures to deprive the Congregation entirely and for ever of the Possession and all the Benefits thereof.**

Accordingly, in the Year 1749, One of them, by Fraud, and without any Colour of Right, slipt into the said Part of the House, forcibly breaking open a Room that had been reserved as a Repository for Registers, and the various Utensils belonging to the Church, (which never could be recovered); and refusing to quit the same, in open Defiance of the Rights of the Congregation, no other Means were left for them but to lay their Complaints before the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury; who, on or about the 9th Day of June 1749, were pleased to direct their Solicitor to take all proper Measures, not only for replacing them in the Possession of the Premises, but likewise for punishing the Intruders in such legal and effectual Manner, as might deter them and others from the like Offences; and, to testify their Sense of the Misbehaviour of the chief Promoter of their Distress, their Lordships were pleased at the same time to direct, that the annual Salary of One hundred

Pounds, which he received, should be detained in the Receiver's Hands, till further Order.

In Pursuance thereof, an Information of Intrusion was filed in his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, at *Westminster*, against the said Intruders; to which, in *July 1753*, they pleaded the Jurisdiction of the Court of the Dutchy of *Lancaster*, and ever since they have, in Defiance of all Law, continued to with-hold the Possession and Benefits thereof; having bartered the same from one to another, stripped off the Lead with which the House was covered, and made many Alterations: By whose Example instigated, others of the same Disposition have taken Occasion to do many more Wrongs and Injuries against the Rights, and to the great and manifest Detriment, of this Congregation.

On the 23d Day of *March*, in the Year of our Lord 1756, a Man of very mean Appearance, attended by divers others, quite unknown, intruded himself, first breaking the Lock, into a large Room on the Ground-Floor of the said Master's House, which the Congregation (not having public Cash enough to repair and make it fit to be inhabited) had lett out as a Mineral Water Warehouse, at a certain

yearly Rent; One of the Overseers, with the Pew-keeper of the Chapel, coming to prevent their Attempt, without any kind of Provocation, the Intruders beat and abused them, and publicly declared, that if they, meaning the Congregation, should make the least Opposition, they would also take from them the Church, and drive them utterly from the Savoy.

Upon this new Insult, first taking proper Advice, they represented all these Proceedings to the Right Honourable the Lords of the Treasury, who were immediately pleased to give strict Orders to their Solicitor, to prosecute the Persons concerned in the Disturbance of their Rights at the Crown's Expence. And in the Year 1757, taking their distressed State into Consideration, were likewise pleased to allow, for the Use of this Church, the Sum of 433*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* out of the aforesaid retained Salary, as a Reimbursement of the great Expences, Damages, and Losses their Church had sustained by that principal Promoter of all these Troubles, and by his Procurement: This most necessary and seasonable Comfort has enabled the Vestry to pay the Debts and other Charges incurred on that Occasion, and to keep this religious Establishment from being dissolved.

In the other House, where the Chapel was first instituted, and which is still the Place of their public Divine Worship, the Ground-Floor had been lett out, and the yearly Rent regularly paid, till about Four Years ago the Tenant first deferred paying the same, alledging several Disappointments; but now, under Pretence of having as much Right as the others, and concurring in their Sentiments, refuses, at all Events, to pay any more; so that there are Five Years Rent due: All possible Means have been used to persuade the said Tenant to do them Justice; but the Circumstances are of so delicate a Nature, that the least Rigour would certainly promote their total Expulsion.

Thus are they deprived of every Part of the Premises, so graciously granted unto their Church, except the Chapel, and Five small Rooms adjoining to and over the same, now inhabited by the Reader and Pew-keeper of their Congregation, and One small Cellar under the said House, which brings them in an annual Rent of 20s.

This dismal Situation, and the Present ruinous State of the Chapel, occasioned, partly by having deferred the continual Repairing of so ancient a Building,

ing, on account of the said Disturbances, and the Uncertainty of their Tenure, and partly by a Horse-mill erected underneath on the Ground-Floor, renders that Place highly disagreeable, and even dangerous to the Congregation, which is the only one the *High Germans*, and *Swiss*, of the Reformed Protestant Confession, have in these Realms ; for they cannot resort to the *High German Lutheran* Chapels, established here in *London*, as they would thereby be separated from the Communion in which they have all been educated.

Though the Salaries of the Minister, Reader, and the other very necessary Expences of the Congregation, are reduced to the smallest Sum possible, yet the Members of the Congregation are not able, with their Contributions alone, to support, much less re-establish, such a religious Institution : For the *Germans* of the reformed Confession, when they understand a little of the *English* Language, and settle or marry here, in general, resort with their Families to their respective Parish Churches, moved thereto by the Principles of their Religion, which are, in effect, the same as those of the Church of *England* ; their Minister having been legally ordained by a Prelate thereof. Those who have hitherto supported this

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Congregation, and kept it from being totally dissolved, diminish daily, either by Death, or by finding that the Burden would prove too heavy for them to bear.

What renders their Case more moving, is, that they are not able to assist their distressed Brethren, who are not entitled to any Donation or Provision from the Parishes of this Kingdom; Labourers, Travellers, and such as cannot earn more than what daily supports them, are, when sick, old, or infirm, thereby often reduced to the utmost Misery; and such as cannot find Employment here, would willingly go over to settle in the *British* Colonies in *America*, to the great Advantage of this Kingdom, were the Vestry able to assist them in their Voyage.

As this is their Situation, they must depend on this Government alone for a Re-establishment and Support; for it cannot be expected that his *Prussian* Majesty, and the other Princes and Magistrates of the Countries where these People come from, will assist them; as they regret that so many useful Hands should desert their Dominions, and leave their native Country, to employ their Labour and Industry for the Service of the *English* Nation.

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The Loyalty of the Members of this Congregation has been always acknowledg'd, as they have on all Occasions been ready and willing to arm themselves in Defence of the present happy Establishment in Church and State, and of the Liberty they enjoy here in common with the Natives: There are, at this present Time, some Hundreds of them engaged in his Majesty's Service, both by Sea and Land.

The other foreign Protestants, *French*, *Dutch*, and *Lutherans*, are handsomely provided for by the Government, which enables them properly to support their Chapels and Schools, and to relieve their Poor; but the above-mentioned *Germans* have never received any pecuniary Assistance; and there is no Likelihood of their being put into a quiet and lasting Possession of the Buildings granted them in the *Savoy*; neither is it possible to put and keep them in a decent Condition; so that the Service of this Church, which is universally allowed to be of great Importance, must continue to droop under its Opression, and gradually decay, unless their Case is properly considered, and they are allowed such an annual Supply as they received the first Twenty Years from his *Prussian* Majesty, together with the Sum that was promised them by Queen *Ann*, for the Erection of a Building decent and proper

per for Divine Worship ; if this should not be approved of, the Sum of £. may be granted ; the Principal to be put in the public Funds, the Bishop of *London*, for the Time being, or any Person hereafter thought proper, to be Trustee, for to see that the Principal be never touched, and that the Interest be employed, (not to increase any Salaries), for the real Use and Benefit of the Congregation, and other salutary Purposes. This would enable them to provide for all the above-mentioned Contingencies, and to establish this religious Institution on a lasting Foundation for ever, to the great Emolument and Edification of all the *High Germans* and *Swiss* of the reformed Confession, who may at any time come over to settle here, or go to the *American Colonies*, to the Honour of this Nation, and to the Glory of God.



